

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

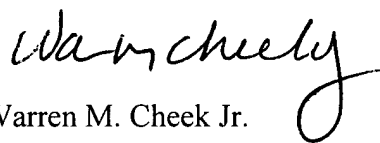
Claims 1-15 have been cancelled without prejudice and replaced with new claims 16-30. New claim 16 defines the isolated nucleic acid sequence as selected from (a) to (g). Section (a) is the definition proposed by the Examiner. Section (b) is intended to cover different nucleic acid sequences encoding the protein, based upon the degeneracy of the genetic code. See page 12, lines 5-11. A revised Sequence Listing has been prepared and is enclosed, to add a new SEQ ID NO: 3, directed to the protein sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2. The paper and computer readable copies are identical. No new matter is added. Section (c) corresponds to claim 5. Section (d) corresponds to claim 6. Section (e) is supported by the paragraph bridging pages 11-12 of the specification. Section (f) is supported by page 12, lines 5-11. Section (g) is supported by page 12, lines 20-27.

New claims 17-23 correspond to claim 16, sections (a) to (g), respectively. New claims 24-30 are supported by the original claims. Rejoinder of the non-elected process claims 28-30 is respectfully requested upon an allowance of the product claims.

In view of the wording of the new claims presented, it is believed that each ground of objection and rejection set forth in the Official Action have been overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Tadashi FUJII et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren M. Cheek Jr.", written in a cursive style.

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